

# A History of Scientific Archeological Research by the Imperial Archeological Commission in Samarkand

(Based on the scientific archive documents of the institute of the history of material culture in the Russian academy of sciences)

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**Abstract:** This research will consider: The beginning of the study of Central Asia by the Imperial Archaeological Commission, includes the expedition of P.Lerch to Yangikent, Turkestan, Shymkent, Tashkent, Khojand and Uratepa in Central Asia;The first scientific study of Afrosiab; N. Veselovsky's dispatch to Central Asia in 1885 the acquisition of the first scientific data on the ancient cities of Central Asia, in particular of Samarkand, and the accumulation of a large archaeological collection;organization of a scientific-architectural expedition to Samarkand under the leadership of N.Veselovsky to complete a systematic study of architectural monuments in 1895-1896 that resulted in, the publication of the album "Samarkand Mosques";the historical, archaeological, linguistic and ethnographic study of Turkestan; and excavations conducted by American scientists Rafael Pompelli and Hubert Schmidt near Gaur-Kala (the arch of the ancient city of Merv) and Annau under V.Barthold's observation.

The Commission's efforts to address the problems of protection, study, and archeological research of monuments in the empire, including Samarkand show how the Commission shaped the standards for archaeology and the focus of research. This rich history presents the ways that the state affected public knowledge of the past.

**Keywords:** archaeological Comission, Samarkand, expeditions, cultural properties.

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## Introduction

Copies of the archives of the Imperial Archaeological Commission (now the Institute of History of Material Culture of the Russian Academy of Sciences) kept in the scientific archives of the Samarkand State Museum-Reserve play an important role in the study of the material culture of Central Asia in the late 19th to early 20th centuries,as well as the aims and functions of scientific research.These archival documents, containing information about the activities of the Imperial Archaeological Commission in Central Asia in 1867-1925, were copied from the original in 1937 in Leningrad by employees of the Samarkand Museum. Copies of these archival documents are currently kept in the Samarkand State Museum-Reserve under the number IKP 1688/1,2,3,4. On the basis of these documents, this study analyzes the scientific research carried out by the Imperial Archaeological Commission in Samarkand in the late 19th - early 20th centuries.

These archival documents have the following benefits:

- Determines how much and what historical artifacts were taken from Central Asia to the museums of Russia and other foreign countries;
- provides detailed information about many architectural monuments that are currently in a state of disrepair, the history of which is unknown, as these monuments were looted at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries;

- Determines the coordinates of the location of ancient cities that are important for archeology in Central Asia. Such areas are abundant in Uzbekistan, including Samarkand, and in the 1930s, by order of the Soviet state, they were leveled to expand cotton plantations.

Among the literature on the subject in question, the first work created directly on the basis of documents from the scientific archives of the Imperial Archaeological Commission was published under the general editorship of E. N. Nosov and was, devoted to the activities of the Imperial Archaeological Commission in 1859-1917 [Nosov 2009: 1192 pages]. In this work, the biographies of the persons working in the Commission are given in full, and the relevant information is given in the form of brief information. Although the work contains a large amount of information, the main directions of the Commission's nearly 50 years of activity have been considered (Table 1).

The second work is that of G. Dlujnevskaya [Dlujnevskaya 2011: 295 pages]. The author relies heavily on the Commission's photo archive in his work. Since the work is devoted to the activities of the Commission in Siberia and Central Asia, more information on the subject is given in relation to the first work. In particular, the author N. Veselovsky's expedition to Samarkand in 1895-1899, 315 photographs of the city's mosques and mausoleums were taken; painter E. Dmitriev's activity in Samarkand in 1890, Photographs taken by S. Dudin in 1905 in the complex of Shoxizinda in Samarkand, photographer S. Prokudina-Gorsky's photographs taken in mosques and mausoleums in Samarkand in 1905 and 1911, and Photos by photographer I. Chistyakov taken in 1898 in Samarkand architectural monuments, French photographer P. Nadar visited Bukhara, Samarkand, and Merv in 1895 and collected 28 photographs, D. Ermakov photographed the architectural monuments of Samarkand in 1901, The activities of A. Kun in Samarkand and his "Album of Turkestan", in the 1890s, the photographer G. Pankratev's activity in Samarkand, photographer I. Vvedensky's activity in Samarkand in 1894-1897 were considered. It is obvious Dlujnevskaya work does not consider the scientific research carried out by the Commission in Samarkand during the colonial period, but mainly shows who photographed the monuments of Samarkand. Other research of this scientist also relied primarily on the materials of the photo archive of the Commission [Dlujnevskaya 1998, 1999, 2003, 2006].

Another work by G. Dlujnevskaya assessed the state of Uzbekistan's history at the end of the 19th century on the basis of documents from the Commission's scientific archives [Dlujnevskaya 2010]. Among other historical cities of Uzbekistan, Samarkand is mentioned in this study. The most prominent architectural monuments of the city are Registan architectural complex, Ishratkhona mausoleum, Bibhanim complex, Gur-Emir complex, Ruhobod mausoleum, Mirzo Ulugbek, Sherdor, Tillakori madrasas, and the Khoja Doniyor mausoleum. All discussed in detail. However, in this work, too, the information for each example is a brief entry of a few short lines.

The literature on the subject includes a number of works from the second half of the 19th century to the 20th century; these sources were cited in the above-mentioned sources [Bartold 1922; 1966a,b,c,d,e; 1977a,b,c,d; Dobrosmislov 1911; Lunin 1958; Shishkin 1969; Yakubovskiy 1940].

### **Research by the Imperial Archaeological Commission in Samarkand**

The Imperial Archaeological Commission was established on February 2, 1859, in accordance with the first paragraph of the Charter approved by the Russian Emperor Alexander II with the aims of "... discovering archaeological findings, collecting information about historical monuments located in this country and value the discovered historical monuments scientifically" [Dlujnevskaya 2011: 5].

After the conquest of Central Asia by the Russian Empire, the Commission began its work in our region as well, establishing control not only over archeological research and protection of

architectural monuments, but also over museum work, even any accidentally discovered findings.

The first person sent to Turkistan by the Commission for Archaeological Research was P.Lerkh. He visited Turkestan in 1867 and explored the ruins of ancient Yangikent (Janakent). After that, he searched for the ruins of the ancient city of Jand and made his assumptions about its location. Then he studied the mausoleum of A. Yassavi in Turkistan. During his five-month-journey, P. Lerkh also visited the cities of Shymkent, Tashkent, Khojand and Uratapa, and copied from the "Zafarnoma" [fund 1. 1867 y, file 8: 1-8], the military action of Mirzo Ulugbek to Mongolia in 1424-1425. The Commission did not conduct any scientific expeditions to the Turkestan region for 17 years after P.Lerkh. By order of the Governor-General of Turkestan Chernyaev, the official V. Krestovsky conducted excavations in the ancient site of Samarkand - Afrasiyob in order to replenish the fund of the Tashkent Museum. Because Chernyayev came to power after von Kaufmann and destroyed the reforms in the cultural sphere during Kaufmann's time. For this, his reputation soon began to plummet. That is why he tried to present himself as a patron of culture and ordered to enrich the fund of the Tashkent Museum.

Excavations by V. Krestovsky in the city of Afrosiab have revealed marble and brick patterns used to decorate many buildings, bronze and glassware, ceramics, tiles, and Arabic, Greek-Baktrian, ancient Iranian and Chinese coins ["New Time" 1883, Number 274: 36]. However, V.Krestovsky stated that he did not have enough experience in classifying antiquities that were found during excavations and previously collected in Tashkent at different times. Therefore, Governor-General M. Chernyaev asked for the Commission to dispatch a specialist to oversee and manage future archeological excavations and classify existing antiquities [fund 1, 1883 y, file 20: 6-7]. I believe that M.Chernyaev did the right thing, because the tsarist official V. Krestovsky lacked knowledge and experience in the field of archeology and history.

In response, the Commission dispatched N.Veselovsky, an associate professor at St. Petersburg University, to Turkestan for archeological research [fund 1, 1883 y, file 20: 12-14]. The scientist's arrival in the country was even more urgent because after P.Lerkh returned to the country in 1867, the Commission had not conducted any serious archaeological research here. This dispatch was an opportunity to make up for lost time.

N. Veselovsky was entrusted with the following tasks:

- explore and identify the ancient cities of the Zarafshan Valley, if possible in other parts of Central Asia
- to carry out excavations in the ruins of ancient Afrosiab, as well as to carry out similar research in the Fergana Valley (Aksi ruins)
- Visit the territory of the Bukhara Emirate to identify antiquities and send them to the Archaeological Commission
- make copies or photographs of items that were significant or impossible to send for other reasons
- compose a brief Description of the archaeological department of the Tashkent Museum
- acquaintance with the nature of the identified treasures and local archaeological collections of individuals [fund 1, 1883 y, file 20: 12-14]. The Commission also recommended that he obtain the coins of Bactria, the Samanids, and especially the Karakhanids, which were lacking in the Hermitage collections, by purchasing them or exchanging them for an equivalent value. The purpose of these acquisitions was to clarify the chronological, genealogical issues pertaining to these dynasties [fund 1, 1883 y, file 20: 12-14].

In late December 1884, Professor Vaselovsky arrived in Tashkent and first visited the Tashkent Museum and looked through the private collections. At the beginning of 1885, he went to Tashkent for excavations in the town of Tuytepa, Kurama district, Syrdarya region, 32 verst

located (obsolete Russian unit of length, verst equal to 1.0668 kilometers (0.6629 miles; 3,500 feet)) away on the Fergana road. Here he excavated parts of the town for three days, but when he could not achieve adequate results, he bought antiquities from the locals. Next, he went to the village of Namdanak, 40 verst north of Tashkent. While working here he bought 12 silver coins from the treasury of Timurid coins [fund 1, 1883 y, file 20:18-37]. Tashkent was then the center of the Governor-General of Turkestan, and in 1876 an archaeological museum was founded here (now the State Museum of the History of Uzbekistan). But here, too, a school for dating archaeological artifacts was not organized. No funds were allocated for the museum for the purchase of artifacts. Trade in archaeological items since the time when Russia conquered Central Asia has been developing step by step. Archaeological research before the arrival of N. Veselovsky was never carried out. But in all the archaeological hills, local and foreign (Russian) black diggers worked. Found items were sold in the antique market. N. Veselovsky, whose main task was to enrich the collections of the Imperial Hermitage, was helped by this situation.

N. Veselovsky arrived in the Fergana Valley in February. His trip to the Fergana Valley began in Kokand. He bought things from the Russian administration and the locals, the merchants. After Kokand, he visited the villages of Asht, Punuk, Chodak, Chust and carried out excavations. After Chust, he visited Aksi and Kasan and excavated in these areas as well [fund 1, 1883 y, file 20: 18-37]. The above cities are located in the same Fergana Valley, which are not far from each other.

After Kasan he went to Ush through Namangan and Andijan. On the mountain Takhti Sulayman, he found a well-preserved inscription, "329 AH, Nasr ibn Ahmad." 329 AH is equal to 941/942 A.D. During this period, the Samanid state was on the verge of collapse. This state was threatened by the Turkic state-Karakhanids from the north-east. Based on this inscription, it can be assumed that at this time the northern parts of the Fergana Valley belonged to the Samanids. Unfortunately, the beginning part of the inscription was covered at that time because of the construction of the Sulayman Mosque. After Ush he went to Uzgen, where he excavated old castles and fortresses. In March 1885 he returned from Fergana to Samarkand [fund 1, 1883 y, file 20: 18-37]. In Uzgen, how long did the excavations last and what was found especially here in the archival document there is no information.

N. Vaselovsky conducted excavations in the 6 areas surrounding Ark in the town of Afrasiab, Samarkand, and compared his findings with information in the works of Arab travelers Al-Istakhri, Ibn Batuta. It is known that the Arab travelers Al-Istakhri and Ibn Batuta in their work describe in detail the inner parts of old Samarkand. The Afrasiab excavations also materially confirmed the spread of Zoroastrianism in Sogdian, as well as Buddhism [fund 1, 1883 y, file 20: 18-37].

During the excavation, glass ink and broken glass parts were found. Based on this, Veselovsky says that glass production in Samarkand and other regions of Turkestan dates back to the distant past. But so far scientists have not come to a common conclusion on this matter. Glass beads of the 2nd century BC, discovered by N. Veselovsky, in itself does not allow us to speak of the beginning of local glassmaking in Central Asia. The first glass beads were found by the American expedition of R. Pampelli during the excavation of the Anau hills near Ashgabat (southern Turkmenistan) [fund 1, 1904 y, file 24: 6-7]. Whether these antique glass products belong to local producers or imported ones, the question has not yet been resolved [Abdurazzokov, Bezborodov, Zadneprovsky 1963: 73-88].

At the same time, on behalf of N. Vaselovsky, the topographers of the military-topographic department of the Turkistan military district G. Vasilev and Kuzmin drew a topographic plan of Afrasiab on a scale of 1 inch=25 sajen (1 sajen is equal to the length of 7 English feet, that is, to the same 213.36 cm) [Abdurazzokov, Bezborodov, Zadneprovsky 1963: 85, 41; fund 1, 1885 y, file 20]. The copy of this plan which was copied in 1938 by A. Bobrovsky is kept in the Fond of Samarkand State museum-reserve under the number of KP 1177/15.

In Samarkand N. Vaselovsky acquired three large collections of various items, bronze Buddhist

idols, stone and metal seals with Asian inscriptions, rings, earrings and bracelets, and many coins. Twenty-five of the coins (some of them were rare and Greco-Bactrian coins unknown to the Commission) were gold; in addition to a large variety of Samanids, Tokhiriy, Karakhanid silver coins, a large Chigatoy silver coin that was very rare in hundreds of numismatic collections, Silver coins of the Timurids with the seal of almost 50 of the last rulers, including Shaybani and other dynasties of the 17th-19th centuries; he acquired more than two thousand copper coins. In Bukhara he bought some antique metal, most of them were Kufic-inscribed, household items [fund 1, 1885 y, file 20: 18-37]. In the first years after the conquest of Turkestan by the Russian Empire, the scientific community faced the important task of studying the still unexplored Turkestan region. The goal was to turn the region into a resource base and keep the population under the rule of the empire for as long as possible. To accomplish these tasks, it was necessary to study the history of the country, the life of the population. Therefore, N. Veselovsky tried to take out of Turkestan as many antiques as possible related to the history of Turkestan and the way of life of its people. And also the collections of the Imperial Hermitage were completed.

During the visit, N. Veselovsky also copied ancient inscriptions of historical significance: inscriptions on the graves of the sons and grandsons of Amir Temur, gravestones in the Chilukhtaron, Shaybani and Khoja Akhror cemeteries. He also made copies of the inscriptions in the mosques of the Samarkand Arch and other places [fund 1, 1885 y, file 20: 18-37]. The search for these copies is of great importance today and requires special research. Because more than fifty years later, during the Soviet era, much has changed in these facilities. For example, the citadel of Samarkand was completely demolished in the middle of the 20th century; some gravestones in the Chilukhtaron cemeteries have not reached us, etc.

During this period, the head of the Samarkand district G. Arendarenko also sent a copper statue found in Aphrasib in 1881, and other ancient bronze and stone objects found in Central Asia by N. Veselovsky to the Imperial Archaeological Commission [fund 1, 1885 y, file 20: 39]. Twenty gold, 409 silver, and 871 copper, altogether 1300 ancient coins, obtained by N. Veselovsky, were sent to the Imperial Hermitage in 1891 [fund 1, 1885 y, file 20: 41]. These coins played a decisive role in the Hermitage in the formation of the numismatic collection of oriental coins and the Islamic department.

Antiques brought by N. Veselovsky from the Turkestan region were accepted into the collection of the Hermitage in 1896. The collection is numbered under the collection number 7326 and contains about 650 items [fund 1, 1885 y, file 20: 45-69].

The collection also included works by local collectors of Turkistan that were purchased by N.I. Veselovsky. According to him, about 1,500 unique antiques (most part of them were coins of various dynasties that ruled the territory of Uzbekistan), came from a collector Yunusov, a merchant Mirzo Abdullo Bukhari, Haji Zargar, Hafiz. It is especially noteworthy that among the items bought from the collector Yunusov there was a sealed ring of Miranshah Mirza, the third son of Amir Temur, made in 802 / 1399–1400 A.H. (in the year of the Hegira used in the Muslim calendar for reckoning) [fund 1, 1885 y, file 20: 45-69].

In addition to the above mentioned items, N.I. Veselovsky received as a gift about 50 antiques made of metal and stone from several persons (Akram Askarov in Tashkent, P. Khomutov; Wilkins in Uzgen; N. Chorykov in Marv; engineer Z. Jejemsy in Samarkand, Colonel Korolkov, engineer V. Voitsekhovich, G. Arendarenko; from general Ivanov in the Fergana Valley). Many of these items also formed part of the №7326 collection of the Imperial Hermitage, as mentioned above [fund 1, 1885 y, file 20: 45-69].

At the same time, a coffin with a lid purchased in Samarkand and the lid of the coffin with the image of human head which was bought from a merchant Mirzo Abdulla Bukhari, was sent to the Hermitage in 1907. It should be noted that these items, which were accepted to the Medieval Ages department of the Hermitage and registered in the inventory number №7587, were the first coffins to be taken to Russia at that time [fund 1, 1885 y, file 20: 156-158]. It is noted that this

unique item was named as "ossuary" by N.I. Veselovsky, and hence the original Zoroastrian tomb is called by the same name in other studies [Inostrantsev K. 1907: 166-171]. In all previous studies, the coffin was referred to as "pottery tombs" for what they are made of clay [Inostrantsev K. 1907: 166-171]. Apparently, the " pottery tombs" of the Zoroastrians have not yet been introduced into scientific circulation. Likewise, there were no such items in museums and other collections in Russia.

Well-known archaeologists and historians such as V. Bartold, A. Yakubovsky and V. Shishkin expressed their conclusions about N. Veselovsky. V. Shishkin spoke about this briefly in his work [Shishkin 1969: 33-35]. According to these conclusions, the activity of N. Veselovsky in Turkestan consisted in "searching for objects of art made of precious metals." We can add that N. Veselovsky fulfilled the tasks assigned to him by the Commission. Also, N. Veselovsky's expedition opened Central Asia for European archaeological science. Because N. Veselovsky, as a scientist, was the first to excavate the archaeological sites of Central Asia.

The next large-scale scientific expedition to Samarkand in 1895-1896 was organized under the leadership of N. Veselovsky and with the participation of P. Pokryshkin, painter and photographer S. Dudin, photographer I. Chistyakov, painter N. Shcherbina-Kramarenko, A. Schusev. The monuments of Samarkand, which were not considered property of the waqf, were left unattended. Parts were taken away by visitors for "souvenirs", endangering the future of the monuments. It is known that in Central Asia, before the conquest by the Russians, there was a ministry of waqfs, which was engaged in the repair and maintenance of Muslim objects (mosques, madrasas, mausoleums), and financed education. After the conquest of Central Asia, the institution of the waqf was abolished. The Commission repeatedly appealed to the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Empire to allocate funds for their reconstruction. The Ministry of Finance refused to allocate funds for the reconstruction and protection of the monuments, and instead offered to "create a clear plan and images of the monuments, which are relatively important from an artistic and archaeological point of view, and publish them in a special edition of the Commission." [Reports of Imperial Archeological Committee issue 13, 1906:4] As a result of this decision beginning in 1895, the Commission began a systematic study of architectural monuments in Samarkand. The restoration and conservation of the architectural monuments of Turkestan, including Samarkand, did not take place until the collapse of the Russian Empire. Because the Russian Empire did not have enough money to preserve its cultural heritage. This is evidenced by the speech of the chairman of the commission A. Bobrinsky in the State Duma of the Russian Empire in 1909 [Russia newspaper, 1909, No. 985]. The allocation of funds for cultural heritage sites in such a dependent country as Turkestan was out of the question. Nevertheless, the scientific study of the architectural monuments of Samarkand was an important event for that period.

The members of this historical-architectural expedition first focused on the mausoleum of Amir Timur and the Bibikhanum mosque. The expedition continued during 1895-to 1899. In 1899, N. Veselovsky received 13,000 rubles from the treasury for the first edition [fund 1, 1895 y, file 69 part II: 1]. It was a huge amount. In 1905, the first part of the album devoted to the Amir Timur mausoleum was published [Mosques of Samarkand 1905]. The Samarkand State Museum-Reserve has two copies of this album catalog number # 6231/12/13. The album consists of four sections: an introduction, architectural classification, translation of records, and historical information available in the literature about Amir Timur mausoleum. The architectural classification was prepared by architects Pokryshkin and Shchusev. Famous orientalists were invited to take part in the preparation of information in references about Amir Timur mausoleum and the translation of inscriptions [fund 1, 1895 y, file 69 part II: 1-4]. The archival documents I studied do not specify which scientists were involved in the preparation of the album. I think the album was mostly made under the direction of N. Veselovsky.

Unfortunately, the next parts of the album "Samarkand Mosques", dedicated to the Bibikhanum Mosque and Shakhizinda necropolis, were not published for unknown reasons. However, it is possible to know from the available archival documents that some work related to these

monuments was also carried out within the framework of the above mentioned expedition. For example, I. Djeneev was paid 150 rubles for photographs taken in Shakhizinda necropolis, architect-painter Pokryshkin was paid 377 rubles for the drawings of the facade of the Bibikhanum mosque, and V.Fridolingo was paid 62 r.50 k. for the preparation of a four-page plan of Shakhizindaby the Commission [fund 1, 1895 y, file 69 part II: 1-4: 7-8]. Architect Shcherbina-Kramarenko presented to the Commission detailed drawings and plans of the mosque and Bibikhanum madrasah. [fund 1, 1895 y, file 69 part II: 1-4: 11-12].

Additionally, S.Prokudin-Gorsky was allowed by the Commission to photograph in Samarkand and the Caspian region in 1905 [fund 1, 1895 y, file 69 part II: 285]. In all these cases, the photographs taken in Samarkand are stored in the photo archives of the Commission. Analyzing them has great importance in the discovery of unknown aspects of our ancient monuments to science. The fact that the architectural decorations of most of the architectural monuments of Samarkand were removed by collectors in the late 19th - early 20th centuries. Therefore, it is not known why and when some of them were built. More than a dozen unknown architectural monuments exist in the Shahizinda complex alone. Only their walls and roof are preserved. The architectural coverings that tell the story of the building have not reached us. Studying the photographs taken by the photographers mentioned above useful for reconstructing the history of these archaeological contexts. Because in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, most of the architectural monuments were in good condition.

From the beginning of the 20th century, the Russian Committee also began to take part in the historical, archaeological, linguistic and ethnographic research of Central and East Asia in Turkistan. The Commission's manuscript archive contains documents about the activities of this Committee in Samarkand. Initially, V.L Vyatkyn supervised the compilation of the evidence of topography of Samarkand and its districts from February 8, 1903, on behalf of the Russian Committee. He was instructed to "make a topographic survey and leveling of all the walls and ruins of the city around Samarkand (except the town of Aphrasiab), to get a clear plan of Samarkand with a map of all mosques, to include on the map all the monuments around the city." [Reports of Russian Committee. Number 1. 1903: 2-4, 13] As a result of Vyatkyn's work, a 105-page semi-vertical image of the Samarkand region was presented to the Asian Museum, as well as the location of the ancient Doomsday Wall [Reports of Russian Committee. Number 1. 1903: 2-4, 13]. There is very little information in written sources about the doomsday wall, which is popular in Central Asia. According to legend, this wall was originally built by Alexander the Great. Last renovated by Amir Temur. V. Vyatkin found the remains of a wall near the ancient Dargam canal in the southern part of Samarkand.

With the funds of the Committee and the permission of the Commission, V.Barthold carried out excavations from July 17 to August 13, 1904 in Samarkand in the town of Aphrasiab (behind the gates of the Ancient Paykabad) to determine the location of the mosque. The excavated antiques were placed in eight boxes and sent with a list to the Commission. Eventually, these items were also sent with a complete list to the Imperial Hermitage [fund 1, 1904 y, file 24: 9-10, 13]. While the number of items found in the excavations, such as glass, ceramics, stone, metal products, building cladding, coffin fragments, was more than 400, about 50 items were purchased from the population [fund 1, 1904 y, file 24: 13-20].

After V.Barthold, V.Vyatkin excavated the area behind the Paykabad Gate near Samarkand and in Aphrasiab in 1905-1906 with funding from the Russian Committee. As a result of this project about 100 different archeological itemswere sent to the Commission [fund 1, 1904 y, file 24: 23-25; 42; Bartold 1966]. Also, documents related to V.Vyatkin's archeological excavations in Ulughbek Observatory in 1908 are also in the Commission's manuscript archive. We will not focus on this as several studies have been conducted on this topic [Aleskerov 1970; Bartold 1964; Bulatov 1986; Tursunov 2002; Zhitomirsky 1995].

On behalf of the Russian Committee, the artist-architect K. K. Romanov made drawings of the Rukhabad mausoleum in Samarkand. These five pages of drawings were sent to the Commission

in 1910 [fund 1, 1895 y, file 69 part II: 5]. The Rukhabad mausoleum is typical of the 9th-12th centuries. 9th-12th centuries Central Asian architecture is very different from the architectural style of the 14th-15th centuries or later. In the architecture of the 9th-12th centuries, the buildings were built in the form of a single building, with four doors on four sides and covered with a dome. For example, the mausoleum of Ismail Somoni in Bukhara, the mausoleum of Sultan Sanjar in Merv, the mausoleum of Abdu Darun in Samarkand were built in this style. Beginning in the 14th century, public buildings in Central Asia began to be built in a complex way. The person buried in the shrine of ruhabad was a religious scholar who lived during the reign of Amir Temur. In this regard, this mausoleum has caused a lot of controversy among scientists. That is why this building attracted the attention of scientists back in the 19th century.

In 1912, the Russian Committee submitted to the Commission more than a dozen photographs depicting various parts of the Mirzo Ulughbek, Sherdor, and Tillakori madrasahs in Registan Square [fund 1, 1895 y, file 69 part II: 10]. The photographs depict the facades, patterned tiles, arches, and other parts of the above madrasahs. The detailed, high quality images are an important source in the study of these monuments, which have since suffered damage.

In 1909 chairman of the Commission A.Bobrinsky, in his speech to the State Duma of Russia, noted that the protection, study and archaeological research of monuments in the Empire "are still at an early stage, and the government relied more on private initiatives with weak forces and insignificant funds" ["Russia", newspaper 1909 № 985]. He cited the fact that the USA, Great Britain, France, and Germany were acting in this direction not only on their territory, but throughout the world. As you know, during this period, Russia lagged behind such developed countries as the USA, Germany, Great Britain and France in all areas. Bobrinsky drew the government's attention to science, citing these states as an example. Archeology, can determine a lot that is unknown to history. The above statement links development of the economy of the Russian Empire, to the development of science within and beyond political borders throughout the world.

In fact the aforementioned foreign countries conducted scientific expeditions within the territory of the Russian Empire. The Commission did not object to joint research, but strictly insisted that the items found during the excavation had to be transferred to the Commission. Any archaeological, ethnographic and other research conducted in the territory of the Russian Empire- as well as in the Turkestan region, a dependency, had to be approved by the Commission. This rule was strengthened by the decree of the Russian emperor on March 11, 1889. The decree reads:

"1. The right to conduct and issue to permits for excavations in the territory of the Empire, the state, various organizations and public lands shall be granted only to the Imperial Archaeological Commission. The identified valuable and scientifically crucial artifacts must be submitted to the Imperial Archaeological Commission" [Dlujnevskaya 2011:9]

In 1902, the Chancellor of the Ministry of the Imperial Palace asked the Commission to respond to request, by Fenshow (the documents do not mention the name of this person) a British citizen, who wanted to conduct archeological research in Bukhara and Samarkand (letter No.464). The Commission notified Fenshow that the "Commission does not prevent archeological excavations, the purchase of artifacts from individuals, but the consent of the Archeological Commission is insisted to conduct archeological excavations to obtain artifacts and to take tiles from ancient mosques or collect artifacts [fund1, 1902 y, file 10: 164]. It follows that the Russian Empire was indifferent to the fate of the conquered territories. The metropolis had enough to replenish the collections of Russian museums. Therefore, objects of cultural heritage in Turkestan, including Samarkand, were taken away by foreign collectors.

In 1903, the famous American archaeologist R. Pompelli reports to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Empire that he wants to conduct archaeological research in Central Asia in order to prove that the indigenous peoples of Central Asia, including Samarkand and the Caspian region, occupied the highest level of culture in ancient times, and this culture spread from here to

China, South and West Asia. The Ministry applied to the Commission on April 29, 1903 (letter No. 2381) [fund 1, 1904, d. 24: 1-2].

The Commission allowed Pompelly to carry out excavations in Samarkand and Mary under V. Barthold's strict control during 1904 [Reports of Imperial Archeological Committee, issue 9, 1904: 60-61] At the same time, they demanded that the archeological artifacts "will remain in the territory of Russia as state property, the American expedition will be given the right to publish in agreement with the Commission." (letter № 230 on February 5, 1904) [fund1, 1904 y, file 24: 4-6]. There is no information about other expeditions with the participation of foreign scientists in the archives of the commission. For example, in 1894-1895, the French naturalist John Shaffanjon tried to study Afrosiab using gunpowder explosions [Shishkin 1969: 39]. Nobody controlled his "research".

American scientists Ralph Pompelly and Hubert Schmidt conducted excavations near Gaur-Kala and Annau in present-day Turkmenistan. The finds were donated in 1905 to the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography of the Imperial Academy of Sciences and the Hermitage [Shishkin 1969: 11]

## Results and discussion

- From the above mentioned information, it can be concluded that the main purpose of the Commission's mission in the country was to study the historical artifacts of the ancient East with a wealthy history for several thousand years and, if possible, to remove them to the central museums of Russia in order to make up for the lack of items in the Russian museums.
- The activities of the persons leading the Commission in this direction also varied. The attitude towards the ancient monuments and artifacts in Turkistan was apathetic in the reign of the first chairman of the Commission S. Stroganov. His successor, A. Vasilchikov, also continued the work of his former colleague. A careful attitude towards the objects of cultural heritage and their scientific research began in the period of A.A. Borinsky (1886—1917).
- The Commission also has a role in the study of the history of Turkistan during the period under consideration, and in the preservation of many artifacts, preventing their disappearance even if they were taken out of the country. Considering that the real museum works began in the region after the Russian invasion, the Commission had an influence on the establishment of the Samarkand Museum. The Statistical Committee and the Samarkand branch of the Turkistan Amateur Archeology Circle played a key role in this regard. If we focus on how the Turkistan Amateur Archeology Circle was organized by the V. Barthold's initiative [Lunin 1958: 320], it becomes clear how significant the role of the Commission was in this process.
- Also, before the Russian invasion, the study of manuscripts played a key role in studying the history of Central Asia, but now the study of the history of the region was done by searching for archeological artifacts, architectural monuments, and their components. The Imperial Archaeological Commission was the leading organization for this direction in understanding the past.
- Expeditions of foreign countries to Turkestan were easily permitted by the Commission because insufficient funds were allocated for archeological research in the Russian Empire at that time. Knowledge about Turkistan was still being collected in Russia, and there were few scholars studying Central Asia in Russia.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the above, the following conclusions can be made:

The study of Turkestan by the Imperial Archaeological Commission began in 1867. But this also failed to achieve great results due to the fact that it was an expedition carried out by one person that was not sufficiently funded. The main purpose of any expedition organized by the

Commission was to fill the imperial museums with unique Central Asian artifacts. This has been acknowledged by many scholars since our time. As a result of the expeditions, the scientific study of the existing archeological sites in Samarkand in the late 19th and early 20th centuries began and the foundations of Central Asian archeology were laid.

At the same time, many (mostly rare) items were taken to Russia. Currently, the project "Cultural heritage of Uzbekistan in world collections" with the participation of public and private entities has been launched in Uzbekistan. The book-album "In the collections of the State Hermitage of Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan", published in the framework of this project, has been published. Most of the unique items published in the book-album were taken from Samarkand in the late 19th and early 20th centuries [Cultural heritage of Uzbekistan in world collections. The collection of the State Hermitage. part 1,2. St.Petersburg-Tashkent 2020.]

The Russian Committee for the Study of Central and East Asia has achieved significant results in scientific research in Samarkand. The implementation of the systematic registration of Samarkand monuments, the organization of a number of archeological expeditions is associated with the name of the Russian Committee.

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## К О П И И Д Е Л

АРХИВА Г. А И М К "а, относящихся к  
СРЕДНИЙ АЗИИ.

ЧАСТЬ I.

( 1867-1885 г.г.)

Скопировано в 1937 г. в г. Ленинграде.

A copy of the archive files of the Institute for the History of Material Culture of the Academy of Sciences. Part 1.1867-1885.

1.

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К О П И И Д Е Л

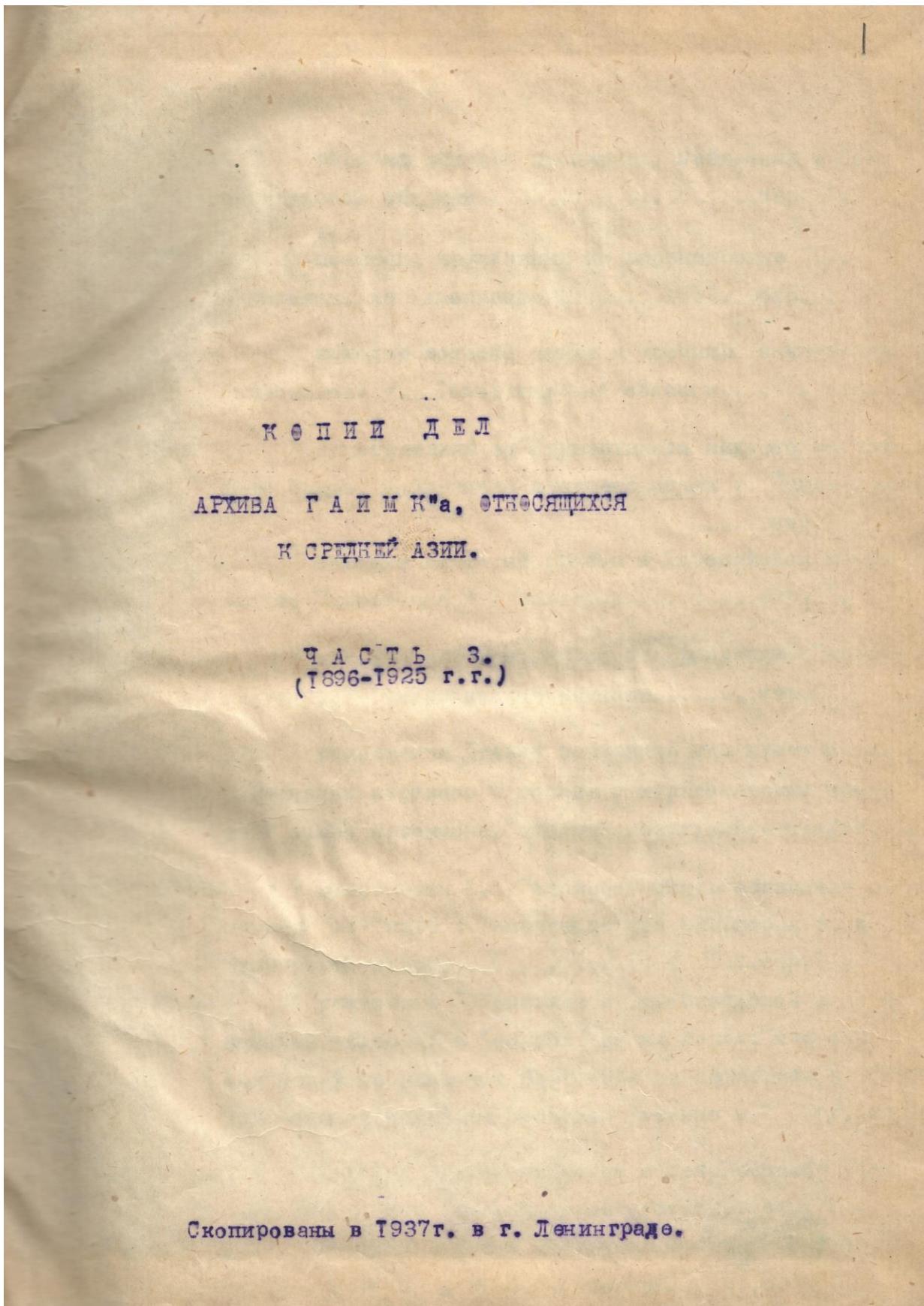
АРХИВА Г А И М К"а , ОТНОСЯЩИХСЯ  
К СРЕДНЕЙ АЗИИ.

Ч А С Т Ъ 2.  
(1886-1895 г.г.)

Скопированы в 1937 г. в г. Ленинграде.

2.

copy of the archive files of the Institute for the History of Material Culture of the Academy of Sciences. Part 2.1886-1895. A



3.

4. *A copy of the archive files of the Institute for the History of Material Culture of the Academy of Sciences. Part 3.1896-1925.*

Д. № 24

1904

- 1 -

50

Министр  
Иностранных Дел

Апреля 29 дня 1903 г.

№ 2381

Милостивый Государь  
Граф Алексей Александрович,

Отношением от 29 сего Апреля за № 2380  
Первый Департамент Министерства Иностранных Дел  
передал непосредственно в ИМПЕРАТОРСКУЮ Археоло-  
гическую Комиссию ходатайство посла Северо-Амери-  
канских Соединенных Штатов об оказании содействия  
профессору Рафаэлю Помпелли, предполагающему  
отправиться в Среднюю Азию для производства науч-  
ных исследований, предупредив одновременно г.  
Мак-Кормика о необходимости означеному профес-  
сору в виду того, что производство археологиче-  
ских исследований и раскопок принадлежит веде-  
нию названной Комиссии обратиться к ней за разре-  
щением и необходимыми справками.

Вместе с тем принимая во внимание, что пред-  
полагаемые исследования будут произведены при  
содействии известных профессоров Америки и имеют  
целью доказать, что местное население достигло  
в глубокой древности значительной степени куль-  
туры, которая уже отсюда распространилась в Ки-

Его Сият-ву Графу А.А. Бобриńskому

5.

6. Letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Empire "on the appeal of Professor Pompelli".

Д. № 24

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1904

- 4 -

Министерство  
ИМПЕРАТОРСКОГО  
ДвораИмператорская  
Археологическая  
Комиссия

5 февраля 1904г.

Господину Начальнику  
Закаспийской Области

№ 231

С. Петербург  
Здание ИМПЕРАТОРСКОГО  
Зимнего ДворцаВследствие ходатайства американского  
геолога Р. Помпелли /

о разрешении ему производства раскопок в Закаспийской и Самаркандской областях, ИМПЕРАТОРСКАЯ Археологическая Комиссия определила выдать Г. Помпелли открытый лист на право производства раскопок в означенных областях на текущий 1904 год, но вместе с тем признала необходимым учредить строгое наблюдение за работами Г. Помпелли и его сотрудников и предъявила ему следующие условия, на которые Г. Помпелли изъявил согласие: 1/ главный контроль за работами поручается Комиссию профессору С. Петербургского Университета В.В. Бартольду, который предстоящим летом предполагает отправиться в Самарканд для археологических исследований. 2/ Так как профессор Бартольд, занятый своими собственными работами не может безотлучно пребывать на месте работе американской экспедиции и будет только периодически посещать их, то должен быть организован

7.

8.